



THINKING ABOUT BECOMING AN ELECTRICIAN OR LOW VOLTAGE TECHNICIAN?

Are You Looking for a New Career?

You may want to consider the benefits of becoming an Electrician or Low Voltage Technician.

Do you like working with your hands, enjoy working with tools, and can figure out how things work? If you answered yes—you may want to consider one of these careers.

Careers in the trades: A career as an electrician or low voltage technician is a respected and needed profession in our electrified world. Some in the skilled trades are beginning to retire, and skilled men and women are needed to fill those positions.

Electricians and Low Voltage Technicians make good salaries for their skilled training and experience. Many work for electrical or low voltage contractors and others own contracting businesses themselves. They in turn provide employment and on-the-job training for employees and apprentices.

Retraining through WECA electrician education is easy. Learning more about what it takes to pursue an electrical or low voltage career and choosing the right education program could lead you to a rewarding and satisfying career!



How Can I Become a Skilled Electrician or Low Voltage Technician?

Those interested in pursuing one of these career paths must take education or training courses like an **electrician trainee program**, or have entered and completed a formal **apprenticeship program**. In addition, program graduates are required to take a CA state certification exam as required by law.

How Long Are the Programs?

Depending on the education path, either electrician trainee or apprentice, and the type of electrician work they want to specialize in.

A WECA student can graduate in 3-5 years.



How Much Will it Cost?

WECA's electrician education programs are affordable. For example, tuition for WECA's apprenticeship programs are paid by the apprentice's employer. WECA's electrician trainee tuition is approximately \$1,513 per year—comparable to a year's tuition and fees at a CA Community College. Compare that to \$5,472-13,456 for in-state university tuition or \$30,131 annual tuition at a private college.

What is WECA?

Western Electrical Contractor's Association, Inc., is a statewide nonprofit organization serving merit shop electrical contractors, their employees and the industry. WECA offers federal and state-approved electrician education apprenticeship and training programs.

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Click: www.GoWECA.com/ExploreCareer.aspx

What is an Electrician?

What is a Low Voltage Technician?

Electricians install, connect, test, and maintain electrical systems for a variety of purposes including power, lighting, climate control, security, communications, and electronic controls for machinery. They work with blueprints, follow the National Electrical Code (NEC), and must comply with state and local building requirements. They use many tools and specialized test equipment.

Low Voltage Technicians test, service, and maintain low voltage electronic and control systems equipment. Technicians are often divided into two categories: Voice Data Video technicians (or VDV techs), and Fire Life Safety technicians (or FLS techs). Voice Data Video technicians establish communications systems by installing, operating, and maintaining voice, data, and video telecommunications network circuits and equipment. Fire Life Safety technicians work on proprietary systems related to fire, life, and safety.

Electricians and Low Voltage Technicians today are at the forefront of emerging technologies that require their skilled knowledge to plan and install solar electric systems, electric car charging stations, smart buildings and homes, and consult about energy efficiency.

They work on commercial construction, public projects, and in residential settings and find themselves in many working conditions. Some may work in dusty, dirty, hot or wet conditions, or in confined areas, ditches or uncomfortable places. Electricians risk injury from electrical shock, falls, and other jobsite hazards. They must follow strict safety procedures like wearing eye protection, hard hats, and gloves.

The mean wage in 2016 for electricians in California is \$68,048 annually, or \$32.72 hourly.*

Source: CA EDD Occupational Employment Statistics Survey. 2016 wages do not reflect self-employment.

WECA Electrician Education Programs



Electrician Trainee Program

WECA's Electrician Trainee Program offers an electrician education focused on a blended learning system that's flexible, convenient, and effective.

Courses are taken online over instructor-led live webcasts in the evenings, allowing students to conveniently participate after work without having to travel. Students typically attend one onsite, hands-on lab day per course at one of WECA's modern training facilities. All classes are exclusively taught by experienced electrical industry professionals. **Electrician Trainees can complete their coursework program in four years, while independently gaining the on-the-job hours necessary to sit for the certification exam.**

Apprenticeship Programs

Apprenticeship is a system of learning in the classroom *and* receiving on-the-job training while earning wages. WECA's apprentices attend classes in an accelerated and intensive format consisting of full-time classroom and lab instruction for two consecutive weeks every six to seven months. Each two week session is equal to one semester.

An apprentice's tuition is paid for by a WECA member contractor whom they are working for as an apprentice.

WECA offers three apprenticeship programs: Commercial Inside Wireman, Residential Wireman, and Low Voltage (Voice-Data-Video and Fire-Life Safety, Sound and Communications Systems) Installer.

In 3-5 years a WECA graduate can become a skilled, state-certified electrician or low voltage technician making over \$65,000 per year with little to no student loan debt.

Visit a WECA training facility:



WECA Northern California Training Facility

WECA also has training facilities in Riverside and San Diego, CA.

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